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**WHY INFORMATION SHARING IS ESSENTIAL FOR
CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

What are Critical Infrastructures?

Critical Infrastructures are those industries identified in Presidential Decision Directive—63 and version 1.0 of the National Plan for Information Systems Protection, deemed vital for the continuing functioning of the essential services of the United States. These include telecommunications, information technology, financial services, oil, water, gas, electric energy, health services, transportation, and emergency services.

What Is the Problem?

90% of the nation's critical infrastructures are owned and/or operated by the private sector. Increasingly, they are inter-connected through networks. This has made them more efficient, but it has also increased the vulnerability of multiple sectors of the economy to attacks on particular infrastructures. According to the Carnegie-Mellon Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT), cyber attacks on critical infrastructures have grown at an exponential rate over the past three years. This trend is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. In our free market system, it is not feasible to have a centralized-government monitoring function. A voluntary national industry-government information sharing system is needed in order for the nation to create an effective early warning system, find and fix vulnerabilities, benchmark best practices and create new safety technologies.

How Do Industries and the Government Share Information?

Based on PDD-63 and the National Plan, a number of organizations have been created to foster industry-government cooperation. These include Information Sharing and Analysis Centers (ISACs). ISACs are industry-specific and have been set up in the financial services, telecommunications, IT, and electric energy industries. Others are in the process of being organized. ISACs vary in their membership structures and relationship to the government. Most of them have a formal government sector liaison as their principal point of contact.

What Are Current Concerns?

Companies are concerned that information voluntarily shared with the government that reports on or concerns corporate security may be subject to FOIA. They are also concerned that lead agencies may not be able to effectively control the use or dissemination of sensitive information because of similar legal requirements. Access to sensitive information may fall into the hands of terrorists, criminals, and other individuals and organizations capable of exploiting vulnerabilities and harming the U.S. Unfiltered, unmediated information may be misinterpreted by the public and undermine public confidence in the country's critical infrastructures. Also, competitors and others may use that information to the detriment of a reporting company, or as the basis for litigation. Any and all of these possibilities are reasons why the current flow of voluntary data is minimal.

What Can Be Done?

Possible solutions include creating an additional exemption to current FOIA laws. There are currently over 80 specific FOIA Exemptions throughout the body of U.S. law, so it is clear that exempting voluntarily shared information that could affect national security is consistent with the intent and application of FOIA. Another solution is to build on existing relevant legal precedents such as

the 1998 Y2K Information and Readiness Disclosure Act, the 1984 National Cooperative Research Act, territorially limited court rulings, and individual, advisory Department of Justice Findings.

Why Pursue a Legislative Solution?

The goal is to provide incentives for voluntary information sharing. Legislation can add legal clarity that will provide one such incentive, as well as also demonstrate the support and commitment of Congress to increasing critical infrastructure assurance.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2001

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, flight delays caused me to miss rollcall votes Nos. 186, 187, and 188. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on No. 186, "yes" on No. 187, and "yes" on No. 188.

CELEBRATING THE DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2001

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Defense Logistics Agency's 40th anniversary. The Defense Logistics Agency has a distinguished history as the nation's combat support agency. Its origins date back to World War II when America's entrance into the global conflict required the rapid procurement of large amounts of munitions and supplies. When the agency was first founded, managers were appointed from each branch of the armed services for this task. In 1961, the Department of Defense centralized management of military logistics support by establishing the Defense Supply Agency. After 16 years of increasing responsibilities, the Defense Supply Agency expanded its original charter and was renamed the Defense Logistics Agency in 1977.

I would like to commend the Defense Logistics Agency's impeccable record of supporting defense and humanitarian missions. It stands as a testament to the agency's commitment to provide seamless support of our armed forces around the world and to extend a helping hand to victims of all types of adversity.

As the world has changed and evolved, the Defense Logistics Agency also has adapted and proven its ability to streamline. Agency employees have shown dedication to improving quality, reducing costs and improving responsiveness to their warfighter customer needs. They have also demonstrated their ability to embrace the latest technologies of today's competitive business world, which has resulted in saving the taxpayers billions of dollars. The Defense Logistics Agency's record of achievement serves as an example of government service at its best, highlighted by two Joint Meritorious Service Awards.

On behalf of my colleagues, I would like to praise the individual efforts of the men and women involved in the Defense Logistics

Agency, and thank them for making the Agency a world-class organization. In honor of the 40th anniversary of the Defense Logistics Agency, we are proud of the Defense Logistics Agency's past endeavors and look forward to a bright and successful future of continued commitment and service to our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in extending congratulations and best wishes to the employees of the Defense Logistics Agency on this memorable occasion and achievement.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES H. MULLEN

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2001

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Arkansan and outstanding educator. I am proud to recognize James H. Mullen in the Congress for his invaluable contributions and service to his community, to our state, and to our nation.

For over three decades James Mullen of DeWitt, Arkansas has made a profound impact on the lives of people. Born in Mendenhall, Mississippi, James served in the United States Air Force during World War II. After being honorably discharged, he used the GI benefits to attend Mississippi State University, where he earned a degree in agriculture. That government investment would reap tremendous returns.

After graduating from Mississippi State, James moved to DeWitt, an area primarily dependent on its agrarian strengths. It was his responsibility to assist other veterans in developing their agricultural proficiency.

In 1955, James accepted a job with the DeWitt Independent School system teaching agriculture. For the next eleven years he would remain in this position. His influence far exceeded his teaching responsibilities.

It was not uncommon for young men to seek him out for personal counsel. His home was always open to young men who needed a listening ear, wise counsel, or any type of support. On one occasion a former student came to James and informed him he was going to quit college because of lack of funds. Although James didn't have the money to loan the student, he did the next best thing and went to the bank and secured a personal loan.

Each summer, in addition to visiting in the home of each student, James would take a group of students to camp. He had the unique ability to have fun with the students while maintaining an authoritarian position. On one visit to summer camp, the students destroyed his hat. With James, there were two things you never messed with: his hat or his pipe! Before nightfall, he had driven all those boys to town and required them to purchase a new hat. He never lost control!

In 1966, James joined the Arkansas State Department of Education as Associate Director of Petit Jean Vocational Technical School in Morrilton, Arkansas. He would remain in that position until 1970 when he was named Director of the Crowley's Ridge Vocational Technical School in Forrest City, Arkansas. At Crowley's Ridge, he inherited a fledgling institution and successfully restored the integrity of the institution.

Construction of the Rice Belt Vocational Technical School was approved in 1974. Community leaders from DeWitt would accept no